November 15, 2000

Jane Henney, Commissioner Food and Drug Administration 5630 Fishers Ln., Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

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RE: Docket # 00P-1211/CP1

Dear Ms. Henney,

As the mother of a child fighting leukemia, I am very concerned about the quality of food she eats. I am especially concerned about genetically engineered food. Once GE seeds are released in nature, we can never take them back. The list of risks includes

- o Loss of biodiversity as only a few varieties of crops are used extensively;
- o Genetic "drift" as pollen of altered plants mingles with traditional varieties;
- o Increased allergies and other potential health problems;
- o Greater reliance on the chemicals required for GE crops;
- o Control of the world's seeds through patents owned by a few corporations.

We must require great caution in the development of GE foods, including:

- Corporate accountability to consumers and public regulation
- **Pretesting** no new genetically-engineered foods or products with GE ingredients should be released until the Food and Drug Administration requires long-term safety testing of all GE foods before they go to market.
- Labeling of new products all GE food presently on the market should be labeled, giving consumers the right to know what's in the food they are eating.

Thank you for your time.

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